

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 23, 2008

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 10, 2008

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

## Assembly Joint Resolution

**No. 37**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Arambula**  
**(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Jones)**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aghazarian, Feuer, Galgiani,**  
**Krekorian, and Tran)**

August 20, 2007

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 37—Relative to the Hmong community.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 37, as amended, Arambula. Hmong community.

This measure would commend the President of the United States and the United States Congress for protecting the rights of Hmong refugees to pursue full citizenship in this country and for amending the federal USA Patriot Act and federal Real ID Act to redefine terrorist organizations, terrorists, and those providing material support to terrorists to exclude groups, such as the Hmong, who contributed and supported the United States during the Vietnam War and who pose no threat to national security.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Hmong community deserves to be recognized
- 2 for its valuable contributions to the cultural, civic, and economic
- 3 well-being of California and the United States; and

1 WHEREAS, Throughout the United States' involvement in  
2 Southeast Asia and the Vietnam War, the Hmong people were  
3 stalwart allies of the United States in the struggle against the spread  
4 of communism; and

5 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War, the Hmong people were  
6 actively recruited and trained by the United States Central  
7 Intelligence Agency to take up arms against the communist regime  
8 in support of the United States' national security objectives; and

9 WHEREAS, During the Vietnam War thousands of Hmong  
10 men, women, and children died while supporting the United States'  
11 effort to contain the spread of communism; and

12 WHEREAS, After the end of the United States' military  
13 involvement in the Vietnam War in 1975, the Hmong people faced  
14 life-threatening hardship and oppression, forcing hundreds of  
15 thousands of Hmong to leave their homes as refugees; and

16 WHEREAS, The international Hmong community is now spread  
17 around the world, including the United States where the Hmong  
18 have significant communities in California, Minnesota, and  
19 Wisconsin; and

20 WHEREAS, California has benefited ~~greatly~~ *immensely* from  
21 the cultural richness, industriousness, and patriotism of the Hmong  
22 community, including contributions from a growing group of  
23 economic, political, and civic leaders; and

24 WHEREAS, The USA Patriot Act (Public Law 107-56) and the  
25 federal Real ID Act (Public Law 109-13) had unintended  
26 consequences that labeled many refugees, including Hmong groups  
27 that fought alongside the United States in self-defense against  
28 authoritarian regimes, as "terrorists" and "terrorist groups"; now,  
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
31 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California  
32 hereby commends the President of the United States and the United  
33 States Congress for protecting the rights of Hmong refugees to  
34 pursue full citizenship in this country; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the California State Legislature further  
36 commends the President of the United States and the United States  
37 Congress for amending the USA Patriot Act and the Real ID Act  
38 in H.R. 2764, which was recently passed and signed into law, to  
39 redefine terrorist organizations, terrorists, and those providing  
40 material support to terrorists to exclude groups, such as the Hmong,

1 who contributed and supported the United States during the  
2 Vietnam War and who pose no threat to national security; and be  
3 it further

4 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
5 of this resolution to the President of the United States and to each  
6 Senator and Representative in the United States Congress.

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